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Title: Need to increase the amount of minimum support price for paddy in Andhra Pradesh.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (BHADRACHALAM): Madam, I urge upon the Minister of Agriculture for the Minimum Support Price for paddy.

Madam, Andhra Pradesh is a major paddy producing State.[a85]

Its yield is more than the national average in some of the districts. Now, those peasants who are growing paddy are on agitation. Actually, yesterday, they observed a peaceful *bandh* all over the State. Our State Assembly which concluded its Session last week also resolved to request the Central Government to give the Minimum Support Price for paddy at Rs.1000 per quintal. Previously, a proposal was sent suggesting Rs.1088 per quintal for Grade-I variety of paddy and Rs.990 per quintal for the common variety. It is very pitiable that when the neighbouring States like Maharashtra and Karnataka are getting about Rs.950 per quintal, in my State they are getting only Rs.600 to Rs.625 per quintal. The input costs of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides have all gone up. The paddy growers are in trouble. Hence I would request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to enhance the Minimum Support Price up to Rs.1000 per quintal.